

February 27, 2010

Washington, DC – Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) issued the following statement in opposition to the recent joint resolution recently introduced the House of Representatives by Congressmembers Skelton, Peterson, and Emerson to express Congressional objection to Environmental Protection Agency's recent endangerment finding relating to greenhouse gas emissions:

“As I stated last December, Congress should look at the endangerment finding of the EPA as another reason to press for swift legislative action on a comprehensive energy bill that addresses climate change, such as the one that passed the House in June. I strongly oppose any effort to undue the authority that the Supreme Court not only held that the EPA had, but mandated that they enforce, of examining greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act. It is the duty of Congress, and the EPA as laid out in the Clean Air Act, to protect the health and safety of Americans. As the EPA's scientifically based endangerment finding found, greenhouse gas emissions are a risk to that health and safety and action needs to be taken.”

Congressman Sestak in December released the following statement in support of the EPA's endangerment finding:

"Today's signing of EPA's findings serve as yet more impetus for Congress, through passage of meaningful climate change legislation, to provide the President with a clear path on how this Nation should address greenhouse gas emissions," said Congressman Sestak. "Doing nothing is just not an option. We owe it to the next generations to confront the serious effects of these emissions. I continue to call for ambitious renewable energy standards and the bill I helped pass in the House this year is an important step toward a cleaner and safer environment, as well as toward the job-creating green economy we need. It is now as important as ever for members of the Senate to stand up and call on their leadership to move on passage of meaningful legislation in that chamber."

Congressman Sestak was one of the first Members of Congress to express support for the climate change bill framework put forward by the Chairman Henry Waxman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and U.S. Climate Action Partnership, a coalition of businesses and environmental groups. As part of that effort, he co-sponsored and continues to support legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen the green economy by creating a strong national renewable energy standard.

EPA's endangerment finding follows a 2007 Supreme Court decision that the EPA, by law, must examine whether it should regulate greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act. This determination requires EPA to take future regulatory actions, such as finalizing the greenhouse gas standards proposed in 2009 for new light-duty vehicles. Climate change legislation as passed by the House and proposed in the Senate would complement these findings by providing a statutory framework for the reduction and regulation of greenhouse gas emissions.

The Skelton, Peterson, and Emerson joint resolution is similar to a joint resolution offered by Senator Lisa Murkowski in the Senate earlier this month.

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, the Congressman was the first Director of Deep Blue, the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the Global War on Terrorism. He served as President Clintons Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government

from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Congressman Sestak is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.

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